

Maryland State Police
1201 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD 21208-3899

Colonel Marcus L. Brown

Volume 2, Issue 4

October—December 2013

Maryland State Police
“A Statewide Force
for a Safe and
Secure Maryland.”



“Our goal is to impact the areas where crime is highest, where traffic issues are worst, and where help is needed most.”

Colonel Marcus L. Brown
Superintendent

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.mdsp.org

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/MarylandStatePolice

WE'RE ON YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/MarylandStatePolice



*How Your Maryland State Police
Are Making Maryland Safer*

CRIME FIGHT

SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW GUN LAW—October 1—The Maryland State Police Licensing Division worked diligently to prepare for effective implementation of the new gun law. Additional employees were hired and trained. Equipment was added. Programs and protocols were written and put in place. New website information specific to the gun law was prepared. Seminars for gun dealers and police officers were held. The on-line application process for the handgun qualification license became operational within minutes past midnight on September 30. Handgun qualification licenses are being issued within the required 30 days and handgun purchase applications under the new law are being returned within seven days.

DRUG ARREST—Allegany County, October 3—A trooper from the Cumberland Barrack stopped a vehicle for speeding. The trooper detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. A search produced 1,500 stamp baggies of heroin. The driver and passenger were arrested and charged.

DRUG ARREST—Harford County, October 9—Members of the Harford County Drug Task Force, which includes the Maryland State Police, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Aberdeen Police Department, Bel Air Police Department, and Havre de Grace Police Department, confiscated 1,423 grams of cocaine and arrested and charged two individuals with conspiracy to distribute narcotics.

WANTED SUSPECT APPREHENDED—Harford County, October 11—A suspect wanted on attempted murder was apprehended by members of the Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit and Apprehension Team, assisted by the Cecil County Sheriff's Office. The suspect was charged with first degree attempted murder, second degree attempted murder, second degree assault, reckless endangerment, handgun on a person, and use of a firearm in the commission of a violent felony crime.

MULTI-STATE GUN THEFT INVESTIGATION—Dorchester and Wicomico Counties, MD and Delaware, October 14—After a rape investigation in Wicomico County led to information about a theft of guns by a Maryland suspect from a Delaware storage facility, the MSP Gang Enforcement Unit was called on to assist. Working with multiple drug and criminal task forces, troopers were able to identify the multiple individuals who had purchased the firearms from the primary suspect. The stolen rifles and shotguns were recovered from Maryland and Delaware.

ARREST IN \$300K QUEENSTOWN JEWELRY STORE ROBBERY—Prince George's County, October 18—Maryland State Police and the FBI arrested and charged a Prince George's County man in connection with a Queen Anne's County jewelry store robbery last spring during which hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of jewelry was stolen.

The arrest and charges resulted from an investigation that began about 8:00 p.m. on May 19, 2013, when a suspect entered the
(continued on next page)

CRIME FIGHT

Ultra Diamonds jewelry store, in the 100 block of Outlet Center Drive, Queenstown, Md. The suspect displayed a handgun and stole dozens of pieces of jewelry from the store. The suspect was described as wearing a disguise that included a wig, fake beard, sunglasses and a ball cap. He was seen fleeing the area on a sport motorcycle, which was later found and determined to be stolen from Washington, D.C. The stolen jewelry was valued at more than \$300,000. No one was injured during the robbery.

The investigation by the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division investigators began immediately. They were joined in the investigation by special agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Evidence developed during the investigation led to the identification a suspect. Investigators obtained search warrants that were served on October 18, 2013, in Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties by State Police investigators and special agents from the FBI. The suspect was arrested and charged with armed robbery, robbery, theft over \$100,000, first degree assault, and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. In addition to the FBI, Maryland State Police investigators received significant assistance from law enforcement agencies that included the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Postal Inspector's Service, U.S. Attorney General's Office, Prince George's County Police Department, Anne Arundel County Police Department, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, the Eastern Shore Information Center, Maryland State Police State Apprehension Team, Maryland State Police K-9, and the Maryland State Police Field Operations Bureau.

GANG LEADER SENTENCED—Baltimore, October 23—A long-term joint investigation by federal, state, and local authorities throughout Maryland culminated in the sentencing of a major gang leader and 34 of his accomplices whose gang operated from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. Andre Ricardo Roach, the gang leader was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Sentences for the accomplices ranged from time served to 30 years in prison. The U.S. Attorney's Office, Maryland State Police, FBI, ATF, and numerous police departments, sheriff's offices, and county state's attorneys' offices participated in the joint effort.

ATTEMPTED MURDER FUGITIVE ARREST—Wicomico County, October 29—An attempted murder suspect sought by the Salisbury Police Department was located and arrested by the Maryland State Police Apprehension Team. The attempted murder had occurred Oct. 25th. A handgun, cocaine and marijuana were recovered during the subsequent search warrant service.

GANG ENFORCEMENT—Cecil County, October 29—While working the Cecil County Safe Streets initiative in Elkton, members of the MSP Gang Enforcement Unit witnessed and interrupted a drug transaction. A suspect was arrested with more than 100 baggies of heroin for street sale. He was identified as a member of the Bloods gang and was found to be on probation in Delaware. Authorities there were contacted concerning his arrest in MD in order to activate violation of probation procedures.

SUSPECT IN MULTIPLE BURGLARIES ARRESTED—Queen Anne's County, October 29—A trooper was called to a residence for a reported burglary in which a number of power and automotive tools were stolen from the home and garage. The uniform trooper obtained the assistance of MSP criminal investigators and a suspect was developed and contacted that night. Troopers found stolen property in his possession. He also had an open warrant for burglary/theft from AA Co. Troopers found the suspect had papers with numerous addresses in three counties, some of which have already been identified as having been burglarized. Follow up is continuing, but indications are that this suspect is responsible for multiple burglaries in counties on both the Eastern and Western shores.

DRUG ARREST—Prince George's County, October 31—A trooper from the Washington Metro Troop Criminal Enforcement Team was assisting DED MADTF with a CDS investigation. He saw a vehicle speeding with an unrestrained passenger. A traffic stop was conducted. Several criminal indicators were observed. A search revealed almost seven pounds of marijuana in the trunk. Two persons were arrested and charged.

HALLOWEEN CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT—Somerset County, November 1—Troopers from the Princess Anne Barrack, Somerset County Sheriff's Office, Princess Anne Police Department and Parole and Probation made home visits to registered sex offenders' homes during the time children were out trick or treating. Fifty sex offender residences were visited with no violations reported.

DRUG ARREST—Queen Anne's County, November 13—During an enforcement initiative, a trooper stopped a driver for violating the move over law. He detected numerous criminal indicators. A search yielded 56 pounds of marijuana. The suspect was arrested and charged.

CRIME FIGHT

DRUG INTERDICTION ARREST—Cecil County, November 18—A trooper assigned to the Pro-Active Criminal Enforcement Team (P.A.C.E.) conducted a traffic stop. Criminal indicators were detected by the trooper. A search of the vehicle yielded 347 pounds of hydroponic marijuana. This type of marijuana is grown for a higher THC level.

WARRANT ARREST—Prince George's County, November 18—A trooper was alerted that the driver of a vehicle was wanted. The trooper stopped the vehicle and confirmed through the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office that the suspect was wanted for theft over \$10,000.

DRUG ARREST—Prince George's County, December 3—The MSP College Park Barrack, Washington Metro Troop Criminal Enforcement Team, and the Metropolitan Area Drug Task Force conducted a traffic stop in Lanham. A scan and search resulted in the confiscation of approximately 3 pounds of marijuana. The suspect was arrested and charged.

DRUG ARREST—Baltimore County, December 6—A trooper observed a vehicle with unauthorized window tinting material. He stopped the vehicle and detected a strong odor of burnt marijuana. A search produced 90 capsules of heroin. The driver was arrested.

DRUG INTERDICTION ARREST—Calvert County, December 19—A complaint from a local motel resulted in a suspect being arrested for having possession of 155 grams of cocaine, Xanax pills, and two grams of marijuana.

AUTO THEFT ARREST—Prince George's County, December 19—The Prince George's County W.A.V.E. (Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement) Team, of which MSP is a part, assisted the Montgomery County Auto Theft Unit with executing search warrants for individuals of an auto theft organization heavily involved with shipping stolen vehicles overseas. Six individuals were arrested. During a search of the residence, more than 11 pounds of marijuana was also found.

LARGE QUANTITY DRUG ARREST—A Super 8 Motel complaint resulted in the seizure of 152.5 grams of cocaine and a bag containing Xanax pills. The person was arrested and charged.

MISSING CHILD RECOVERED—Dorchester County, December 20—A six-year old child reported missing as a result of a non-custodial parent abduction from Puerto Rico was recovered by troopers from the Easton Barrack. The father and two additional females living in Easton were arrested. Troopers made arrangements with the Department of Social Services to have the child reunited with his mother in Puerto Rico.

DRUG ARREST—Worcester County, December 28—During a traffic stop, troopers confiscated 10 pounds of high-grade marijuana. The person was arrested and charged.

ASSISTANCE TO ALLIED POLICE DEPARTMENTS

BURGLARY SUSPECTS APPREHENDED—St. Mary's County, October 28—Several members of the Leonardtown Barrack assisted St. Mary's County sheriff's deputies with the apprehension of two suspects involved in residential burglaries. Information was obtained as to their involvement in 10 other burglaries and accomplices.

HIGH RISK TRAFFIC STOP—Prince George's County, October 26—Troopers from the Forestville Barrack assisted the Prince George's Police Department in apprehending an individual who had been involved in a domestic incident and fled in his vehicle. Prince George's County Police Department

stopped the vehicle while troopers provided backup. The driver was arrested and charged.

ASSISTANCE TO ALLIED DEPARTMENT—Cecil County, December 13—The Cecil County's Sheriff's Office (CCSO) broadcast the description of suspects and a vehicle involved in an armed robbery. A trooper from the North East Barrack stopped the suspects and vehicles. CCSO responded to the scene. Weapons used during the robbery and items stolen were found. Three of the four occupants were arrested for armed robbery.

HOMELAND SECURITY

DRUG INTERDICTION—Allegany County, October 3—A trooper stopped a car for a traffic violation and detected the odor of marijuana. The driver was wanted on an open warrant from Washington County and was immediately arrested. Further investigation involving the female passenger in the car led to the recovery of almost a pound of heroin, with a street value of \$40,000. A small amount of marijuana was also recovered. Both persons were charged with felony drug charges.

DRUG INTERDICTION—Cecil County, October 8—A traffic stop by an interdiction trooper on I-95 led to further investigation that resulted in a search of the vehicle. A false compartment was found in the SUV that contained two bricks of cocaine, weighing almost 15 pounds. With the drugs was cash totaling \$10,000 in drug related money. Federal charges will be filed against the suspect.

UNTAXED CIGARETTE SEIZURE—Prince George's County, October 28—A trooper from the Washington Metro Troop Criminal Enforcement Team stopped a driver for operating a vehicle while using earphones. The driver appeared extremely nervous and told another trooper on the scene that he was in possession of more than 5 cartons of cigarettes. A search of the vehicle produced 6,956 packs of cigarettes valued at \$44,866 representing a tax loss to the State of Maryland of \$13,912.

FREEDOM AWARDS CEREMONY—December 11—Colonel Marcus L. Brown hosted the Freedom Awards Ceremony. Guest speakers included Secretary Edward Chow, Jr., from the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, and Colonel Marco Harris from the Drug Enforcement Command, Maryland National Guard. More than 140 Maryland State Police sworn and civilian war veterans were presented a new Department ribbon. The new award ribbon was adopted by the Maryland State Police to honor War on Terror veterans who were mobilized after the September 11, 2001, attacks. The honorees were joined by their families, friends, and Maryland State Police commanders.



ACTIVE ASSAILANT INCIDENT WORK GROUP FORMED—December—At the request of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and due to recent incidents around the country, the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems convened an interdisciplinary work group to investigate responses to incidents involving an assailant causing or threatening harm with a firearm or explosive device. Groups represented include police, fire, medical services, training, investigative, and emergency managers.

DRUG INTERDICTION ARREST—Prince George's County, December 3—After conducting a location surveillance, the Washington Metro Troop Criminal Enforcement Team, College Park Barrack, Prince George's County Police Department and the Metropolitan Area Drug Task Force conducted a traffic stop on a suspect. A search yielded about 3 pounds of raw marijuana. The driver was arrested and charged.

DRUG INTERDICTION ARREST—Baltimore County, December 6—A trooper from the Golden Ring Barrack stopped a vehicle for a window tinting violation. Criminal indicators were detected. Ninety capsules of heroin were found. The driver was arrested and charged.

140TH MSP ACADEMY CLASS GRADUATION—December 21—Sixty-seven new troopers graduated from the Maryland State Police Academy at Winters Mill High School, Westminster, MD.



PREVENTING INJURY AND DEATH

CELL PHONE LAW ENFORCEMENT—Statewide, October 1—Troopers across the state conducted numerous enforcement initiatives in support of the new cell phone law in Md. Troopers issued hundreds of citations and warnings while educating drivers about the new law.

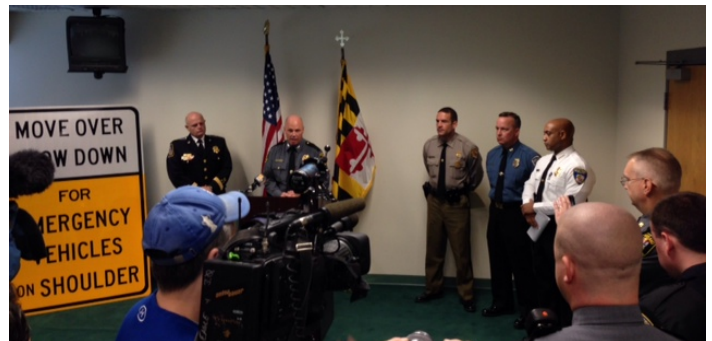
MOVE OVER LAW ENFORCEMENT/EDUCATION INITIATIVES—Statewide, October—Following the crash that critically injured Trooper Jacqueline Kline and several other crashes involving State Police vehicles, enforcement and education campaigns about Maryland's 'move over' law were initiated at all barracks. A full day of enforcement was conducted on October 21st and other local initiatives occurred at other times. Media outreach was also conducted in an effort to reach a broad audience and educate drivers about the law and the increased safety it provides to emergency personnel.

TEXTING REDUCTION INITIATIVE—Baltimore, Cecil, Harford Counties, October 1 to 3—A cooperative effort involved the Maryland State Police JFK Highway STING Team and DUI enforcement team; Cecil County Sheriff's Office; Harford County Sheriff's Office; Baltimore County Police Department; Maryland Transportation Authority Northern Region and Tunnel Command; Harford County Traffic Task Force; and the Perryville Police focused on I-95 and the interchange roadways prone to high traffic collisions, cell phone and seat belt violations, and criminal and drug activity. Results of the operation were: 581 stops, six CDS violations, one DUI arrest, three criminal arrests, eight open warrant arrests, 309 traffic citations issued, 340 warnings, and 48 safety equipment repair orders. There were 108 cell phone citations and 63 cell phone warnings issued, 54 seat belt citations and 31 seat belt warnings. One individual was identified as a gang member and was arrested on outstanding warrants from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland Division of Correction.

FULL SERVICE MISSION OPERATION ON THE EASTERN SHORE—Queen Anne's County, November 15—The Aviation Command's Easton Section officially marked the commencement of full-service mission operation with the first new AgustaWestland AW 139 helicopter to be deployed on the Eastern Shore. The pilots and flight paramedics who staff "Trooper 6" have now been fully trained on the new aircraft. They have begun flying the new helicopter around the clock on all Aviation Command missions.

STATE POLICE AND COUNTY PARTNER ON DUI ENFORCEMENT—Anne Arundel County, November 18—Anne Arundel County Police Department and the Maryland State Police joined forces to reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes. County police officers worked with the SPIDRE (State Police Impaired Driving Effort) program on Route 3 in Anne Arundel County looking for distracted, impaired and unsafe drivers. The State Highway Administration and the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office also supported the initiative.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE—Montgomery County, November 23—Troopers from the Rockville Barrack and officers from the Montgomery County Police Department conducted "Operation Ninja" at six locations. The initiative produced 205 stops, 142 citations, 55 warnings, 59 special equipment repair orders, 10 DUI arrests, 17 drug arrests, one warrant arrest and one civil citation.



HOLIDAY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT—Statewide, November 27 to 30—The Maryland State Police, Maryland Transportation Authority, Anne Arundel County Police Department, Baltimore County Police, and the Baltimore Police Department worked cooperatively to keep Marylanders safe during the Thanksgiving holiday. During the Thanksgiving holiday enforcement period, Maryland State Police made 6,800 stops, 140 arrests, and 101 driving under the influence arrests. There were NO fatalities reported. At that time, fatalities were down 14 percent statewide.

IMPACT is produced by the Maryland State Police Office of Media Communications, 1201 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD, 21208-3899. Questions or information can be forwarded to the editor, denise.masimore@maryland.gov.

PREVENTING INJURY AND DEATH

MARYLAND REMEMBERS—December 12—State troopers joined Colonel Brown and other law enforcement officers at the 10th Annual Maryland Remembers Ceremony honoring the victims of impaired driving-related crashes.

16TH ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT—December 13—Colonel Brown joined the Virginia State Police for the annual Law Enforcement Awards and Holiday Campaign Kick-Off.

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER—Statewide, December 13—Maryland State Police began its holiday impaired driving enforcement in concert with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign which continued through January 1, 2014. The enforcement initiative resulted in 15,861 citations; 14,129 warnings; 3,448 special equipment repair orders; 380 driving under the influence arrests; and 178 drug arrests.

ACCREDITATION

CALEA ACCREDITATION—The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) promotes superior public safety training services and recognizes professional excellence. There are five steps in the process: (1) enrollment, (2) self-assessment, (3) on-site assessment, (4) com-

mission review and decision, and (5) maintaining compliance and reaccreditation. On December 15, MSP began an on-site assessment to verify that it meets professional standards required for its training academy and communications facilities. MSP successfully completed this step.

2013 PRELIMINARY STATISTICS

MARYLAND STATE POLICE

GETTING ILLEGAL GUNS AND DRUGS OFF THE STREETS

1,810 Firearms Recovered Statewide

4,426 Drug Arrests Statewide

IMPROVING HIGHWAY SAFETY

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

724,228 Citations and Warnings Issued

6,668 Arrests for Driving Under the Influence

SAVING LIVES

2,920 Sick and Injured Patients Transported

444 Search and Rescue Missions Conducted

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

CHILD RECOVERY UNIT

95 Missing Child Investigations

184 Child Prostitution or Human Trafficking Cases

COMPUTER CRIMES UNIT

85 Child Pornography Investigations

26 On-Line Enticement Investigation

122 Assistance to Other Agencies

RECOVERING STOLEN PROPERTY

RAPID (Pawn Database)

\$ 2,715,783 Stolen Property Recovered

962 Arrests as a Result of RAPID

1,381 Criminal Investigations Closed

SUPPORTING STATE POLICE AND

ALLIED LAW ENFORCEMENT

FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION

21,112 Cases Completed

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

1,012 Fire/Explosives Investigations

356 Criminal Investigations

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CVED EMPLOYEES RACE FOR THE CURE—Baltimore County, October 20—The Maryland State Police team made up of Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division sworn, civilian, and family members participated in the 21st Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The team of 58 members raised \$7,354.



BEARS THAT CARE TOY DRIVE—Month of November—The Easton Barrack held events to raise money and collect toys for their annual *Bears that Care Toy Drive*. On November 1, a restaurant in Easton joined with the Maryland State Police and the Trappe Police Department to collect toys and donations. The commander of the Easton Barrack, troopers, civilians and friends helped serve a community lunch. On November 16, Easton Barrack hosted a Trappe Community Day and Pageant and on November 30 a *Stuff the Bus* event was held. The goal this year was to help over 150 families, about 450-500 kids, have a wonderful Christmas.

MSP PARTICIPATED IN BULLYING PREVENTION SUMMIT—Calvert County, November 1—A member of the Maryland State Police Computer Crime Unit participated in the second Bullying Prevention Summit, "Make the Difference", held by the Calvert County Public Schools Student Services. The presentation was titled, "24/7 Bullying in the Digital Age."

5K FOR JK—Carroll County, November 10—More than 600 runners participated in a 5K race to support TFC Jackie Kline. The run took place at the Maryland Police Training Commission in Sykesville, Maryland, where the Maryland State Police Academy is located. Runners raised more than \$30,000 to assist TFC Kline with expenses during her time of recuperation.

The winner of the race was a member of the 140th Trooper Candidate Class.



GLEN BURNIE BARRACK CHILI COOK-OFF—Anne Arundel County, November 15—The Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the barrack raised almost \$5,000 in support of TFC Jackie Kline.

MARYLAND FOOD BANK

ASSISTANCE—Baltimore, November 24—Braving the freezing cold weather, members from the Golden Ring Barrack assisted the Maryland Food Bank with the collection of food and monetary donations during the annual Ravens Food Drive on November 24 at M & T Bank Stadium.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AND DISPOSAL—Washington County, December—Maryland State Police Hagerstown Barrack and the Washington County Health Department partnered in their efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse and disposal of unwanted prescription medications. A secure drop box located in the lobby of the Hagerstown Barrack is available to the community 24 hours a day.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SHOP WITH A COP—North East, December 14—North East Barrack and local law enforcement teamed up with the North East Wal-Mart and other businesses and organizations to host their second annual Shop With A Cop event. Children and their families were escorted to the local Wal-Mart and each child was given a \$300 gift card to purchase gifts and clothing. The families were provided a lunch with Santa at the barrack as volunteers wrapped their purchases. Each family also received a turkey.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL—Somerset County, December 14—Princess Anne Barrack organized a Community Christmas Festival to build community relationships between law enforcement, local government agencies, private organizations and churches. During the event, bags of food were distributed to local families in need. During the four-hour event, food, games, music and a photo session with Santa were provided. Due to local donations, toys and eight bicycles were raffled off. The event was attended by more than 400 local community members. The festival gave MSP the opportunity to bridge communication shortfalls which had developed over several months, as well as during a recent homicide investigation.



EXPLORERS HELP MAKE HOLIDAYS HAPPIER—Allegany County, December 18—Members of the Maryland State Police Cumberland Barrack Explorer Post delivered Christmas dinners to several local families. The Explorers identified families throughout Allegany County and worked with local stores to provide dinner and all the trimmings. The Explorers delivered the dinners with the help of troopers from the Cumberland Barrack.

SANTA NEEDED SOME HELP—Washington County, December—Santa Claus needed a little extra help this year so the Maryland state troopers at the Hagerstown Barrack sponsored a toy drive to make sure underprivileged children in Washington County had a Merry Christmas. New, unwrapped toys were accepted from December 5 through December 23 at the Hagerstown Barrack. The Hagerstown Bears that Care program worked with the local Toys for Tots to make sure children received their toys by Christmas.



MSP/KINDERTIME TOY DRIVE—Baltimore Metro Area, December—Maryland State Police again participated in the collection and distribution of toys with the KinderTime Toy Drive sponsored by WMAR-TV. Toys were taken to the Kennedy-Krieger Center, Ronald McDonald House, Bea Gaddy Shelter, Johns Hopkins Children's Center and various other locations to make a brighter Christmas for the children. The kids weren't the only ones with smiles on their faces.



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

ARSON ARREST—Charles County, October 18—Deputy state fire marshals arrested a 42-year old male suspect for intentionally setting a one story, single family dwelling on fire in Hughesville. The fire caused an estimated \$5,000 in damage. The suspect was charged with 1st degree arson, 3rd degree burglary, and malicious destruction of property.



FIRE RAVAGES EXOTIC PET SHOP—Cecil County, December 4—Deputy state fire marshals investigated the cause of a fire that originated in an exotic pet shop. Damages were estimated to be \$750,000. The cause was determined to be the result of electrical wiring.

ARSON ARREST—Charles County, October 20—Investigators charged a 52-year old male after he set fire to his girlfriend's townhouse after a verbal altercation. The fire caused an estimated \$5,000 in damage. The suspect was charged with 1st degree arson, 1st degree malicious burning, reckless endangerment, and malicious destruction of property.

VEHICLE ARSON ARRESTS—Charles County, December 6—Two suspects were charged in connection with the burning of a trash truck. The extensive two-month long investigation revealed the suspects intentionally set the fire to commit insurance fraud. The individuals were charged with arson 2nd degree, malicious burning 1st degree, malicious burning/fraud, and malicious destruction of property.

MULTIPLE ARSON ARRESTS—Somerset County, October 22—Deputy state fire marshals investigated three separate incendiary dwelling fires. The first incident occurred on October 2 involving a vacant two-story dwelling in Princess Anne with an estimated \$10,000 in damage. The second incident occurred on October 3 and involved a vacant two-story dwelling located in Princess Anne also. Damages were estimated at \$60,000. Investigation revealed that two 18-year olds and one 23-year old were responsible for the fires. The results of the investigation also connected these individuals to an arson in Eden, Maryland, in which a front porch of a two-story dwelling had estimated damages of \$2,000.

ARSON ARREST—Washington County, December 10—A suspect was charged for setting multiple fires inside an occupied dwelling located in Hagerstown. Damages to the structure and contents totaled \$70,000. The suspect was charged with arson 1st and 2nd degree, attempted murder 2nd degree, malicious burning 1st degree, reckless endangerment, and malicious destruction of property.

HOAX DEVICE ARREST—Cecil County, November 21—Two 16-year old high school students were charged after the students had placed a package inside a classroom that gave an appearance of a bomb. The teens were charged with manufacturing and placing a phony destructive device and disturbing school operations.

ARSON FRAUD ARREST—Harford County, December 11—An extensive investigation involving a profit for loss fire from May 2012 was closed by arrest. Investigators determined that an occupant was responsible for the one alarm apartment fire. The suspect was charged with arson 1st degree, malicious burning 1st degree, malicious burning/fraud, reckless endangerment, false statement to officer, and malicious destruction of property.

TWO ALARM FIRE INVESTIGATED—Carroll County, December 3—A team of investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the ATF investigated the origin and cause of a two alarm fire in a church in Lineboro. The blaze completely destroyed the 160-year old church. Damage estimates were determined to exceed \$2 million.

